

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon (BG) and Tambaram-Chengalpattu (MG) sections is in progress.

Doubling of Quillon-Trivandrum (BG) section will be considered in the coming years.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Airport

167. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received fresh proposals from Kerala Government for upgradation of Trivandrum Airport;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters; and

(d) the reasons for not declaring this airport as international airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Since the existing four international airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are sufficient to cater the needs of international traffic, the Government is not considering any new proposals.

(c) The average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters is 5285.

Setting up of Cement Plants In Rural Areas

168. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called upon the cement industry to improve productivity and ensure its availability in the rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up cement plants in rural areas; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to make available cement in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). In the recent meeting of the Development Council for Cement Industry, the Cement Industry has been asked to improve its productivity. The industry has also been asked to adopt more innovative marketing policies to generate increasing demand for cement in rural areas. Cement is, however, freely available throughout the country at a price determined by the operation of market forces.

Most of the cement plants either existing or under implementation are located in rural areas where adequate limestone deposits of suitable grade have been established. As a policy, cement plants in the organised sector are encouraged only in rural areas.

International Airport at Srinagar

169. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been requesting for an International Airport at Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Demands have been made from time to time by Members of Parliament to declare Srinagar as an international airport. Since existing international airports at Delhi/Bombay/Calcutta and Madras are adequate to cater to international traffic, the Government is not considering new proposals.

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Plant

170. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the thermal power plant at Kayamkulam in Kerala has started;

(b) if so, the details of the work done so far; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Thermal Power Corporation have initiated the preliminary activities like soil investigation, infrastructural development works, etc. at the project site.

(c) The first 210 MW unit of the projects targetted for commissioning during the year 1994-95.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway Line

171. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of doubling of Ernakulam-Trivandrum railway line is in progress;

(b) if so, the percentage of the work that remains to be completed;

(c) whether the work of doubling has slowed down for sometime past;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the estimated cost of the project at present;

(f) the steps being taken to allocate sufficient funds to complete the project early; and

(g) when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Doubling between Ernakulam and Trivandrum is being progressed as under:—

(i) New B.G. Line between Ernakulam and Alleppey:

Already commissioned on 15.10.1989.

(ii) New B.G. Rail Line between Alleppey and Kayankulam:

40% work completed.

When completed, this will provide double line on Ernakulam-Kayankulam section.